

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-11 /081 W

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R 020910Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7340

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3129

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR JA

SUBJ: SOUR JAPANESE REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH

1. FONOFF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRGEN TACHIBANA CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE TSEKHONYA MARCH 1 TO EXPRESS "SERIOUS PUZZLEMENT" OVER BREZHNEV STATEMENT TO 25TH SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DIVDEPDIR SATO, TACHIBANA REPEATED JAPAN'S STANDARD POSITION REGARDING NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND SOUGHT EXPLANATION OF BREZHNEV'S COMMENT THAT JAPANESE CLAIMS "GROUNDLESS AND UNLAWFUL." REFERRING TO BREZHNEV ALLEGATION THAT JAPANESE PRESSING CLAIMS UNDER PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE, TACHIBANA EMPHASIZED THAT DEMAND FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES BACKED BY ENTIRE JAPANESE NATION AND NEEDED NO EXTERNAL SPONSOR. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT DISCUSSIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE RATHER THAN OBLIQUE STATEMENTS LIKE THE ONE MADE BY BREZHNEV.

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2. FONOFF DOES NOT PLAN TO GO BEYOND TACHIBANA'S

LOW-KEY REMONSTRANCE SINCE STATEMENT WAS MADE TO 25TH PARTY CONGRESS AND NOT TO JAPANESE AUDIENCE.

3. AS EXPECTED, JAPANESE PRESS HAS VIGOROUSLY ECHOED SOUR NOTE STRUCK BY FONOFF. MAINICHI, FOR EXAMPLE, ASSERTED THAT BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT ITSELF WAS "UNREASONABLE AND GROUNDLESS". BREZHNEV'S CALL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN-SOVIET TRADE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WERE WELCOMED.

4. TERRITORIAL ISSUE ASIDE, PRESS FOUND LITTLE NEW IN BREZHNEV'S SPEECH. COMMENTATORS WERE HAPPY WITH STRESS BREZHNEV LAID ON DETENTE, BUT DEEPLY SKEPTICAL OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES WORLDWIDE. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT RISING MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ADVENTURE IN ANGOLA BETRAYED TRUE SOVIET INTENTIONS. EDITORIALS AGREED THAT DETENTE AND HELSINKI NOTWITHSTANDING, SOVIETS SEEM INTENT ON PUSHING THEIR ADVANTAGE WHILE WEST IS POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISUNITED. SHOESMITH

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